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THE JERUSALEM POST

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Terrorist blows himself up on way to attack

HERB KEINON

A TERRORIST who was apparently headed for a suicide attack mission blew himself up yesterday in a soccer field in Umm Tuba village in southern Jerusalem...



Kiryat Shmona residents examine the hole a Katyusha rocket made in the ceiling of a kindergarten yesterday.

Talks stalled as IAF strikes at Jibril base

DAVID RUDGE

THE IAF twice blasted a Palestinian terrorist base in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley yesterday, just 10 km. from the Syrian border...

Washington. Prior to Christopher's meeting with Assad, the prospects of a brokered accord appeared to be slim.

Israel is not prepared to accept a return to this situation and, if necessary, is willing to continue Operation Grapes of Wrath until its aims are attained.

Vilna'i: Operation Grapes of Wrath is far from over

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

AS Operation Grapes of Wrath entered its third week, Deputy Chief of General Staff Maj. Gen. Matan Vilna'i said it is continuing according to plan and is far from over.

ment, so Jerusalem could hammer out a deal. Still, the generals said that the IDF attacks had forced Hizbullah further away from the border and as a result the Katyusha fire is less accurate.

the vacuum that has been created. We hope it will be the Lebanese government and not the Iranians and Hizbullah, as has been the case," he said.

Four lightly wounded in Katyusha attacks

DAVID RUDGE

THREE soldiers and a civilian were lightly wounded in Katyusha attacks on the Galilee yesterday.

Earlier, in the morning, a Katyusha rocket exploded in the Western Galilee region wounding three soldiers, one lightly and two with scratches.

PA arrests second most-wanted Hamas bomber

JON IMMANUEL

THE Palestinian General Security Apparatus, headed by Amin Hindi, arrested the second most wanted Izzadin Kassam bomber last Saturday night.

His involvement in terrorism was a relatively recent discovery. He has been on the IDF wanted list only since the beginning of the year.

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Peres, Clinton to issue statement on 'upgrading security relations'

DAVID MAKOVSKY NEW YORK

DURING his upcoming US visit, Prime Minister Shimon Peres and US President Bill Clinton will make a "joint statement" declaring that both countries will start negotiations on upgrading the bilateral security relationship...

\$200 million of assistance and Israel will provide \$300 million over the next five years.

Instead, sources say, Shahal wants night-vision equipment and helicopters, which he believes would advance the goal of separation.

Radiation release at Chernobyl is 'harmless'

KIEV (Reuters) - A small amount of radiation escaped at the Chernobyl nuclear power station on the eve of the 10th anniversary of the world's worst nuclear disaster...

The incident occurred on Wednesday night when staff were changing filters used to pump air from inside the sarcophagus enclosing the fourth reactor, which exploded on April 26, 1986.

Anthony Froggatt, a spokesman for the environmental group Greenpeace, called the incident "a classic example of the lack of safety culture that exists at the Chernobyl station."

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Table with columns: SHABBAT, BEGINS, ENDS, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, BeerSheva, Eilat

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of jail

WEATHER



Netanyahu cautious over covenant changes

LIKUD Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu cautioned against cheering changes in the Palestinian Covenant, "because these amendments are not at all clear-cut at the moment."

Speaking yesterday to his party's campaign steering committee, Netanyahu said that if he again "had to decide whether to vote for or against the Oslo accords, I would oppose them. But this does not mean that we do not now have to minimize the damage these agreements have already created on the ground."

He presented the committee with a seven-clause document containing his guidelines for future contacts with the Palestinians.

MK Ze'ev Binyamina Begin expressed categorical opposition to what is viewed as the Likud's new platform, and MK Ariel Sharon asked for clarifications.

"According to Netanyahu, 'the Palestinian National Council did not nullify the offensive clauses in the covenant, but in effect recommended that unspecified clauses, which Israel considers violations of the Oslo agreement, be amended. Which clauses will in fact be eventually scrapped, if at all, depends on Arafat's interpretation."

SARAH HONIG

"As of now, all that happened was the appointment of a committee to redraft the covenant. There has been no unequivocal scrapping of clauses calling for Israel's destruction."

Should the PNC in the end "actually amend the covenant, it would certainly be a positive step in the right direction," Netanyahu said.

"But the government must make sure that the PLO unequivocally recognizes Zionism and Israel's right to exist. The PA must also live up to all of its undertakings, most of all combating terror, ending virulent anti-Israel incitement and propaganda, and ceasing attempts to undermine the status of Jerusalem as Israel's capital."

Begin argued that "peace cannot be made with the PLO gang of murderers... any government which negotiates with this gang is unworthy of confidence, regardless who is at its helm."

Netanyahu's document includes the following guidelines for a Likud-led government:

1. The government will recognize the facts created by the Oslo accords and will endeavor to minimize the dangers to Israel's security inherent in them.
2. The government will deal with the PA to stabilize arrangements on the ground. It will negotiate the final status agreement on condition that the PA lives up to its undertakings, especially:
 - a. The ascertained unequivocal nullification of all covenant clauses calling for Israel's destruction.
 - b. The prevention of terror and anti-Israel incitement.
3. United Jerusalem is Israel's capital under its sole sovereignty. PLO activity in Jerusalem would cease and its institutions will be closed.
4. The IDF will have full freedom to operate everywhere and at any time against terror.
5. The Palestinians will have self-government and will run their affairs, except for defense and foreign policy, which will continue to be Israel's responsibility, and issues which will demand coordination.

The government will oppose the creation of an independent Palestinian state.

6. The government will encourage the establishment of places of employment in the PA areas.
7. The government will seek to involve Jordan in the final agreement in those spheres that will be agreed upon in negotiations.

LABOR'S convention, which was held in Tel Aviv's Mann Auditorium yesterday afternoon, approved the party platform for the 14th Knesset.

Shortly after the convention, Labor kicked off its election campaign in a festive ceremony, at which Prime Minister Shimon Peres sang the party's campaign jingle - released for the first time - together with hundreds of Labor youth.

Peres said in his speech that since parties' platforms are rarely implemented anyway, it would be preferable to speak of "guiding lines to the negotiations without an explicit commitment. The results of the negotiations with the Syrians and Palestinians will be determined by a public referendum."

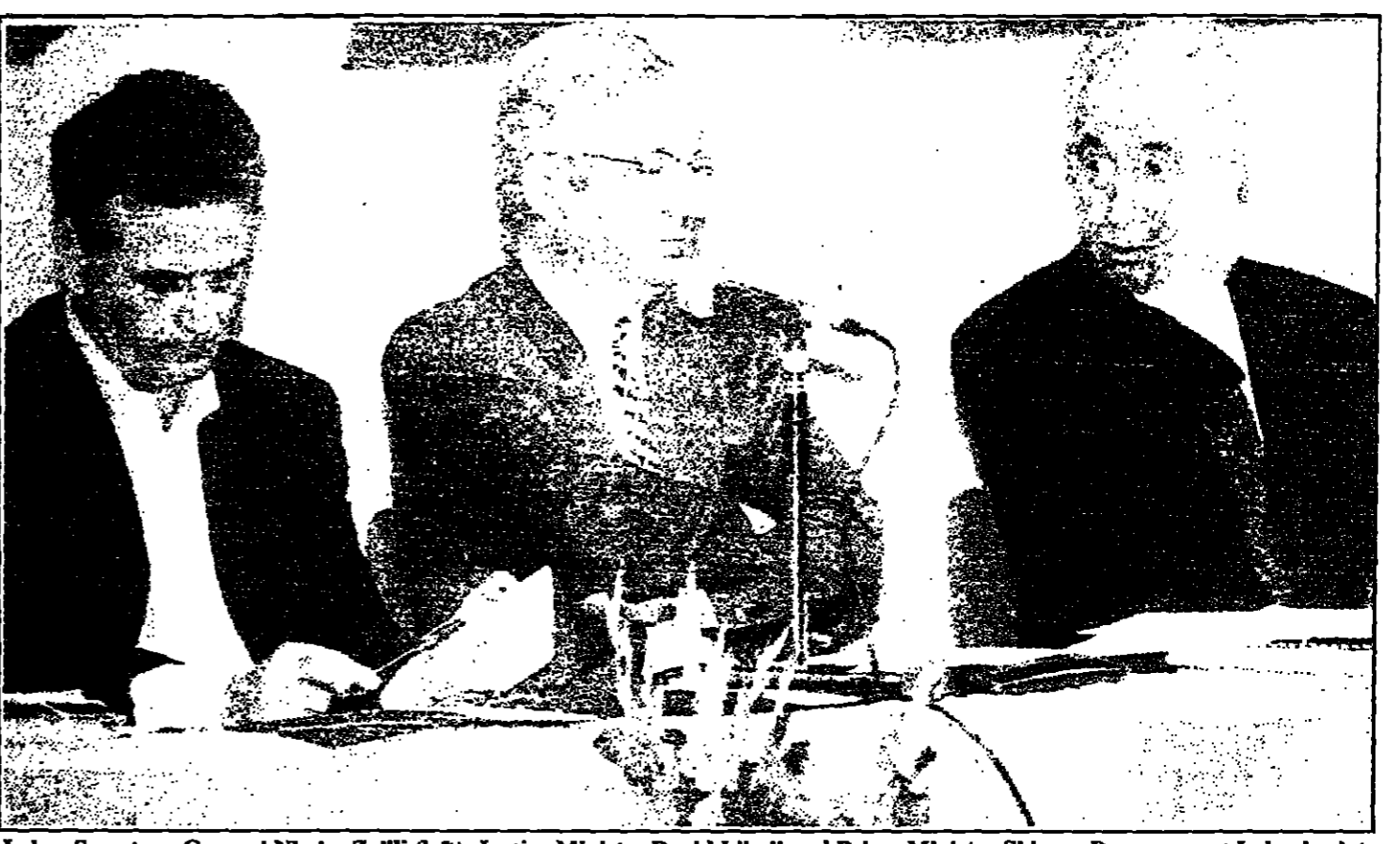
Criticizing the Likud's changing positions, Peres said, "there are parties today - I think there is one in Israel too - which regard platforms as an answer to public opinion surveys. Every day the survey results change, every day their platform changes."

The main changes in Labor's political platform consisted of omitting the clauses negating the establishment of a Palestinian state and the clauses establishing the Golan's importance to Israel's security even in a time of peace from the previous party platform agreed upon in 1992.

The convention accepted the reservations of Golan Council Secretary Yehuda Wohlman concerning the omission of the second clause and decided to include in the platform that, "Labor sees in the Golan a region of national importance to the State of Israel."

A reservation presented by Minister Yossi Beilin, suggesting not to list the explicit regions over which Israel will implement sovereignty, was rejected.

Beilin suggested that instead of mentioning the Jordan Valley, Gush Etzion and the area northwest of the Dead Sea, the platform should say simply that Israel will "withdraw from densely populated Palestinian areas and remain in areas where our population is larger, according to the principles of the Alon Plan."



LABOR Secretary-General Nissim Zvilli (left), Justice Minister David Liba'i and Prime Minister Shimon Peres present Labor's platform for the upcoming elections at the party's convention yesterday. (Israel Sun/Hanoch Grizisky)

Labor convention approves party platform

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Third Way: Labor abandoned its principles

LIAT COLLINS

THE Third Way accused the Labor Party yesterday of abandoning the principles of Zionism, settlements and security by changing its electoral platform. Third Way members particularly attacked Labor for not including a requirement for Israeli control over the Golan Heights, and explicit support for communities in the Jordan Valley.

"The Third Way's platform demands that any agreement with Syria include Israeli sovereignty over Jewish settlements on the Golan Heights, water sources and vital defense lines. The permanent arrangements with the Palestinians must provide for Israeli sovereignty in the Jordan Valley and resources must be allocated to the area," said Third Way leader Avigdor Kahalani.

"Since there is now no difference between the Labor and Meretz platforms, the Third Way is the only party to support territorial concessions and separation from the Palestinians while preserving the defense and settlement assets of the Golan Heights, Jordan Valley, and Judea and Samaria," he said.

LABOR'S personal campaign against Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu, which was launched yesterday, will exclude "any blow below the belt," campaign information chairman Haim Ramon said at a press briefing.

Ramon said he had ruled out any campaign "idea of suggestion relating to any variation on the 'cassette affair.' I don't think such a thing is appropriate in Israel and I wouldn't allow it, even if it was proved effective."

Labor yesterday published a series of newspaper ads entitled "Bibi is not suitable," featuring quotes from Likud MKs Binyamina Begin and Ariel Sharon and Gesher's David Levy.

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Ramon: Labor won't hit Netanyahu 'below the belt'

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

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Meretz wants Temkin as next absorption minister

MERETZ plans to ask for the Absorption Ministry should Shimon Peres form the next government, and will give it to MK Benny Temkin, who is heading its election campaign among new immigrants, party leader Yossi Sarid said yesterday.

The post is currently held by Yair Tzaban of Meretz, who is retiring from political life.

In its campaign, Tzaban said, Meretz will stress the current government's accomplishments in absorbing new immigrants, noting that unemployment among them has dropped from 30 percent in 1991 to only 9% this year.

However, he noted that there are insoluble problems, such as finding work for the hundreds of immigrant mechanical engineers in a country which does not build machines.

Temkin said that surveys show that 10% of new immigrants are considering voting for Meretz, a number similar to that the party received in 1992. He added that the picture has been muddied by the fact that new immigrant parties are running this time. (Tim)

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China, Russia hail friendship

JANE MACARTNEY
BEIJING

RUSSIAN President Boris Yeltsin and his Chinese counterpart Jiang Zemin raised a champagne toast yesterday as they pledged a strategic 21st century partnership and warned the West not to try to dominate the post-Cold War world.

"I can't name a single question on which we would have different opinions," Yeltsin told Jiang in a morning meeting in Beijing's Stalinist-style Great Hall of the People.

The two cemented their blossoming ties by signing a joint communique, setting up a telephone hotline linking their two capitals and signing 13 other agreements, and said they hoped to sign an agreement to cut border troops as soon as possible.

Yeltsin and Jiang, under mounting international pressure over territorial disputes, seized the opportunity to tell the West to mind its own business and not to seek domination of the post-Cold War world. They stopped short of forging a new axis.

The People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation hereby announce their resolve to develop a strategic partnership of equality, mutual confidence and mutual coordination towards the 21st century," their communique said.



Russian President Boris Yeltsin and his Chinese counterpart Jiang Zemin exchange documents at yesterday's signing ceremony. (Reuters)

The two men raised champagne glasses to toast an accord that diplomats said marked the apex of ties since the Sino-Soviet alliance collapsed in the 1960s amid rivalry for ideological supremacy of

the communist world and border clashes.

Diplomats said the clink of champagne glasses did not herald a new Sino-Russian axis because the two harbored deep mutual suspi-

cious after a quarter-century freeze in ties that ended in the mid-1980s. Talks also focused on security issues, with Jiang revealing that Beijing was negotiating with Moscow to cut troops along both

sides of their 4,300-km border and hoped to reach an accord soon.

"China is not posing, and will not pose in the future, any threat to Russia," Jiang told Yeltsin. (Reuters)

New Chechen rebel boss vows revenge for Dudayev

URUS MARTAN DISTRICT, Russia (Reuters) - Chechnya's new rebel leader pledged yesterday to avenge his slain predecessor Dzhokhar Dudayev and said he would press on with the region's drive for independence.

Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, speaking at his first news conference at a secret location in Chechnya, also said there would be no peace talks with Moscow until it was clear who was responsible for Dudayev's death.

"From the moment I took over I've been under pressure from field commanders and people demanding revenge," Yandarbiyev said. "I ordered them to control that mood... so that a just revenge against the organizers and perpetrators of this act can be carried out... without harming peaceful people."

Yandarbiyev, Dudayev's vice president in the self-proclaimed

Republic of Ichkeria, was named rebel leader on Tuesday, two days after Dudayev was killed in a rocket attack while speaking on a satellite telephone.

Asked if the separatists had strength to continue their battle for independence, Yandarbiyev said: "We can carry this war on permanently, continuously, until this land is freed."

"The tragedy of Russia's leaders is that they cannot understand the truth, that a war for freedom cannot be stopped."

Yandarbiyev said compromise with Moscow was still possible, but the issue of negotiations would be suspended until it was clear whether politicians from Moscow were involved in the attack on Dudayev and, if so, who was responsible.

Asked if future actions could extend to Russian territory, he did not exclude the possibility but

added: "We will have to take into account that Russia will call it a terrorist act."

Russia's hawkish Defense Minister Pavel Grachev told Interfax news agency in Beijing that Moscow feared a surge of Chechen "terrorism" in revenge for the killing of Dudayev. Grachev is accompanying President Boris Yeltsin on a state visit to China.

He said the Kremlin leader, who ordered troops into Chechnya in December 1994 to crush its independence drive, had instructed "the heads of all power structures to take every measure to prevent a possible outbreak of terrorism by Chechen fighters."

Over 30,000 people, mostly civilians, are believed to have died in the Chechen conflict which Yeltsin is trying to end to boost his chances of winning a second term as president.

Prosecution: Guru praised disciples after subway gas attack

TOKYO (AP) - A cult guru fed sweet rice cakes and juice to disciples after they carried out last year's Tokyo subway gas attack and said the killings would win them heavenly blessing, prosecutors charged yesterday.

In the second day of a trial that has riveted the nation, prosecutors laid out their case against guru Shoko Asahara, whose Aum Shinri Kyo cult is accused of the March 1995 attack that killed 12 and sickened thousands.

Prosecutors said in a 99-page opening statement that Asahara ruled his apocalyptic cult with an iron hand, and once quietly listened to the screams of a member being strangled on his orders.

After the nerve gas killings, Asahara praised followers who carried out the crime when they reported back to him, and he welcomed them with sweet rice cakes and juice, the prosecution's statement said.

In accusing Asahara of ordering the strangulation of a wayward follower, prosecutors said the cult leader preached that his commands were akin to the word of god.

"If a guru orders murder, that person... has already reached a time to die," they quoted Asahara as telling his followers.

Police: Failed London bomb may be UK's largest

LONDON (Reuters) - Two suspected Irish Republican Army bombs that failed to explode under one of London's busiest bridges probably contained the most high explosive ever used on the British mainland, police said yesterday.

Police said the bombs, left in two briefcase-style boxes under Hammer Smith Bridge in south-west London, contained upwards of 14 kilos of high explosive.

The detonators went off without setting off the bombs at 9:50 p.m. on Wednesday. No one was hurt as police had cleared the area after two telephone warnings. No one claimed responsibility but police presumed the IRA planted the bombs.

An explosives expert said that if the bombs had been properly detonated they could have brought down the bridge, used by tens of

thousands of commuters every day.

"This is probably the largest amount of high explosives ever to have been placed on the mainland," a police spokesman said.

"These would have caused a very large explosion and there is no doubt that this was meant to kill, cause injury and major structural damage."

Detectives initially thought the bombs were warning shots by the IRA to mark the 80th anniversary of the Easter Uprising against British forces in Dublin, one of the hallowed events in the history of Irish rebellion.

But the size of the bombs suggested the guerrilla group, which broke a 17-month cease fire with a huge blast in February in east London, was ready to step up its armed campaign to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

Actress Margot Kidder taken to psychiatric ward after being found dazed, disheveled

GLENDALE, California (AP) - US actress Margot Kidder was in a psychiatric ward after being found dazed and fearful in a stranger's back yard, claiming she had been stalked and assaulted.

Police said they found no evidence of foul play, and took the

47-year-old actress to the hospital, where she was ordered held for three days for observation. Tests showed no sign of drugs or alcohol in her system.

Last May, Kidder's *Superman* co-star, Christopher Reeve, was paralyzed from the neck down.

Bidding frenzy on Jacqueline Onassis's possessions

NEW YORK (AP) - A bidder paid \$2.9 million for Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis' 40-carat diamond engagement ring, and another yesterday even shelled out \$200,000-plus for fake pearls.

"It's incredible!" said *New York Post* gossip columnist Cindy Adams, who bowed out of the bidding for cuff bracelets that went for \$167,500 on Wednesday. "It's insane! At auctions you're supposed to get good prices!"

A triple strand of fake pearls (pre-sale estimate: \$500-\$700) immortalized by a photograph of a young son of President John Kennedy playing with them as his mother, Jacqueline Kennedy, laughs sold for \$211,500.

The winning bid came by phone from the Franklin Mint, a company that specializes in collectible reproductions and promised to put the pearls on display in its museum.

The price a mystery bidder paid Wednesday for the 40-carat diamond engagement ring from shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis, whom Jacqueline married after the assassination of President Kennedy, was the highest so far in the four-day auction of the former first lady's belongings. The marquise-shaped, near-

flawless diamond had been valued at \$500,000 to \$600,000.

Earlier, a desk President Kennedy used to sign the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty of 1963 sold for \$1.43 million. Another ring purchased by Kennedy for his wife but never given to her sold for \$415,000.

Mrs. Onassis died in 1994. Her will directed her children, Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg and John F. Kennedy Jr., and the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston, to choose whatever they wanted from her possessions, then sell the rest. Proceeds were to go to her estate.

The running total after two days of the four-day sale was \$20.8 million, far exceeding Sotheby's extremely conservative estimate for the entire auction of \$3.3 million to \$4.6 million.

Sotheby's based the estimates on the intrinsic value of the objects - few of which were antiques or unusual works of art - rather than on who owned them. "This is one for the history books," said Diana Brooks, Sotheby's president and chief executive officer.

The sale was to end today with the auction of a 1992 BMW sedan.

NY subway gunman must pay victim \$43m

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Bernhard Goetz, who became famous as New York City's "subway vigilante," was ordered by a jury on Tuesday to pay \$43 million to one of the victims he critically wounded in a racially charged shooting more than a decade ago.

The all black and Hispanic civil court jury deliberated six hours before deciding that Goetz must pay Darrell Cabey, who has been brain damaged and partially paralyzed since the December 12, 1984, shooting. Cabey, now 30, had sought \$50 million.

In 1987, a mostly white criminal court jury acquitted Goetz of assault and attempted murder charges, but he spent eight months in jail for carrying an illegal weapon.

By law, lawyers for Cabey can seek up to 10 percent of his income for 20 years; Goetz will not appeal the jury's verdict, his attorney said.



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سكنا في الامل

IDF must weigh public's willingness to sacrifice

The army is looking over its shoulder at public opinion, which, Arie O'Sullivan reports, is having an impact on its operations

It happens to the best of countries. The more affluent the people become, the less willing they are to sacrifice their sons for nonexistent threats to the state. But in this hypersensitivity to casualties actually crippling the IDF's ability to wage war and plan the nation's defense?

Residents in the north demanded retaliation against Hizbullah and the IDF responded with artillery barrages and air raids. It pushed troops and tanks to the border in full view of the cameras in a psychological war aimed at pushing half a million Lebanese northward as a pressure tactic for reaching a cease-fire.

But the IDF never intended to use its ground forces. It never planned a ground offensive of any kind. Its mighty armor and infantry is severely cobbled when it comes to fighting Hizbullah. Not because the army knows you don't fight guerrillas on their own turf with columns of armor and divisions of troops. And not because its highly-trained combat troops would refuse to charge if the bugle blew. Virtually all of the frontline troops interviewed in south Lebanon said they were willing to press on after Hizbullah, if ordered.

The order never came. Operation Grapes of Wrath was planned from the beginning as a limited strike against Hizbullah using sophisticated artillery and air attacks, keeping its troops well out of the way of injury.

"A ground offensive is very inciting. It is something they [Hizbullah] are waiting for. But we have to fight them where we have the clear advantage. We were in Beirut [in the 1982 war] and there were no Katyushas, but we paid a different price and the price made us get out of there," said a very senior IDF officer.

"They cannot feel for a moment that we are not prepared to send in ground forces, that this option is excluded. Because if they feel this way, they will put all their efforts into firing Katyushas. Their sui-

cide terrorists will be trying to fire Katyushas instead of waiting to ambush our tanks. They should wait for the tanks, so we can't give them the impression that a ground offensive is totally out of the picture," the officer added.

BUT HOW much of this tactical decision was based on a conception that Israel is hypersensitive to casualties and that this hypersensitivity in effect kept that option off the planning books?

It is not that the army fears its troops won't fight. The soldiers are most willing, for their own manly and patriotic reasons, to prove themselves in battle. The IDF most certainly does not lack motivation.

"There is pressure burning from below. The troops are wound up and want action, both for Zionist reasons but also because of a sort of machismo. We've trained and, as all soldiers, want to prove ourselves." Lt. Col. D., a battalion commander in south Lebanon, said last week. "But this is a guerrilla war. You don't go in with tanks and divisions of infantry because there is no army facing you."

"Also I suppose we aren't going to be sent in so quickly, because we still haven't gotten over 'Lebanon Syndrome'."

"The army exists in order to fight, not for making parades," a very senior IDF commander said. "When we have to fight we do, but even in a war in every attack we have to examine the best way to do it, and one of the considerations is what you want to achieve versus what you see as reasonable risks."

"We are extremely careful and doing our utmost so there won't be casualties on our side," the senior officer said.

THE CHANGING, upward spiraling society of Israel in 1996 is becoming one of individualism and personal gratification. There is more "me" and less "we," which is starting to be reflected itself in the IDF.

Parents no longer send their chil-

dren to the IDF without question. Unlike a generation ago, parents today have been there and if a soldier is killed, they won't take it quietly as their parents may have done. Today, they will go to the attorney-general to challenge the army's version.

To its credit, the military is aware of this attitude. For the first time, the IDF's Planning Branch has included changes in society among the top five factors influencing long-range security planning.

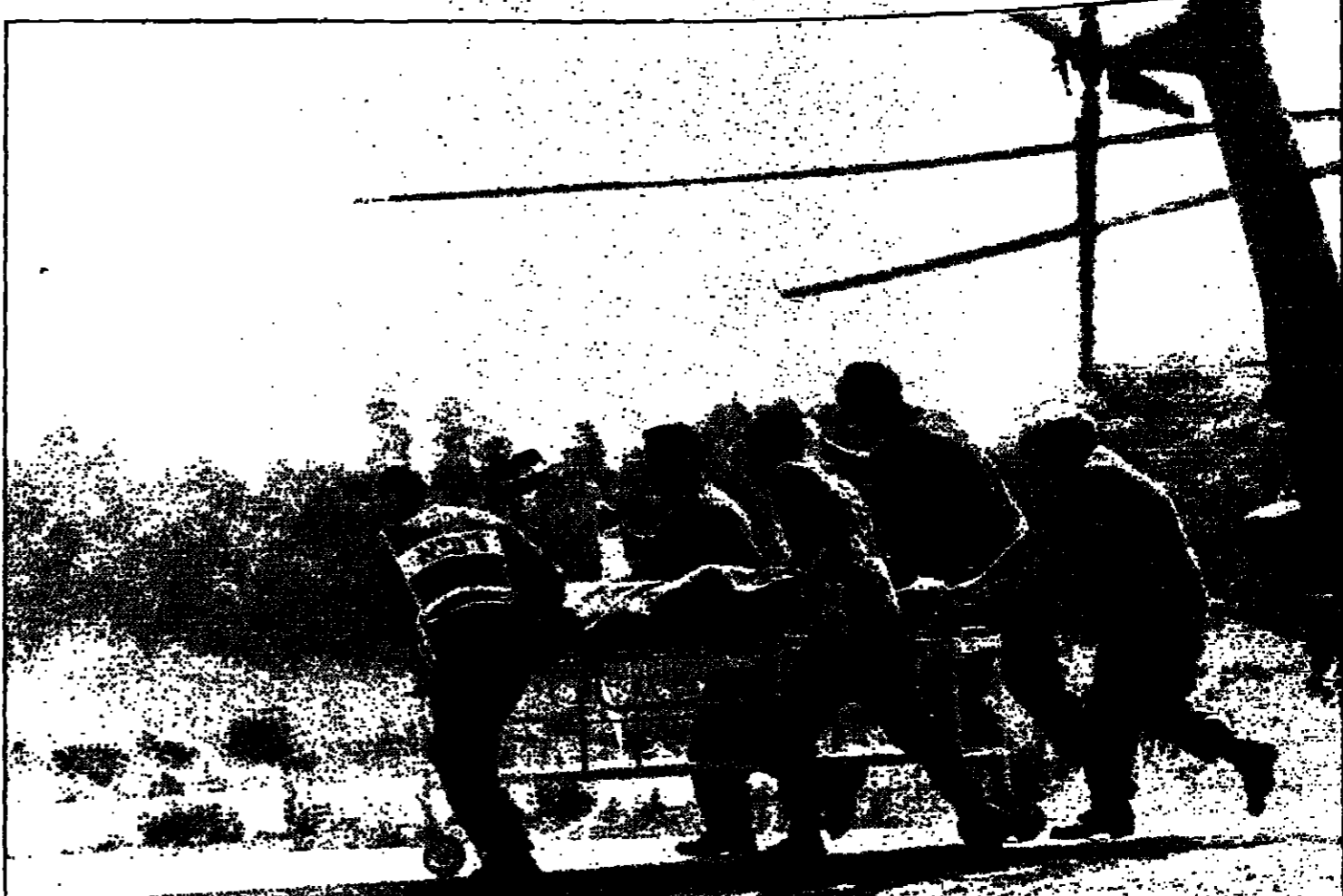
"Once, when we were young and beautiful, we were the mortar between the bricks," said a senior IDF officer involved in planning. "Today, the individual is no longer the mortar, but the brick itself. But the undertaking of this self-development is legitimate. I am trying hard not to judge this. I think this atmosphere is fitting. This is true for reservists, for conscripts and for the parents who send their children to the army."

"The defense establishment today is much more exposed to parents, to the media and to lobbies," the senior officer said. "The defense establishment is also involved in the peace process, which is a controversial topic itself. On one hand, this process has created expectations which have not yet been fulfilled, and on the other hand there are those opposed to the direction the process is taking. We find ourselves in between."

The senior officer stressed that while the defense apparatus was "strong and influential," it should refrain from setting the norms and, instead, follow society's lead.

It is not that the willingness to sacrifice has diminished, it has just changed.

"ISRAELIS WANT instant gratification," said Col. Ra'anan Gissin, an IDF spokesman. "They are willing to make tremendous short-term sacrifices, but they want the payoff now. We want peace now. We want a short-term war to end now. We want peace with Jordan and the



Fear of casualties is one factor in the decision not to use ground forces in Operation Grapes of Wrath. Here, IDF medics care for a soldier after he was wounded in Lebanon last year. (Aviva Shapiro/Israel Sun)

Palestinians to shorten our service now. Perhaps, this comes from the impact of cable TV or growing affluence.

"When it comes down to it, Israelis are great sprinters, but awful marathon runners," Gissin said.

"The question is how much it affects the army. In the short term, it doesn't," Gissin said, because the army knows it can count on highly motivated troops. But in the long term, IDF planners are increasingly taking into account changes in the public's willingness to make the sacrifices of conscription.

Asher Arian has run opinion surveys for the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies' project on national security and public opinion in Israel, which he heads. His polls have shown consistent public

support for a stable or increased defense budget over the past decade. He said about 60% believe the budget was appropriate, with about 30% responding that it should be increased. Less than 10% felt it should be reduced.

"There would be a solid base of support for increasing the security budget if the government chose to make that move. But the country has to be convinced that the increase of budget will also increase the security which can be bought," said Arian, a professor of political science at Haifa University.

Arian said this was also the case when it came to the public's willingness to make the human sacrifices for state security. This was manifested not only in the willingness to serve in the regular

army or perform reserve duty, but in the readiness to increase the time served should the need be there.

"IN A sense, the individualism and openness of Israeli society impacts on the security considerations, but the security situation has also improved and that goes together," Arian said.

Prime Minister and Defense Minister Peres has repeatedly said he was the leader, who removed the IDF from the mud of Lebanon and would not be the one to order the troops back. But he is speaking on the eve of an election and a costly offensive there now would surely harm his chances if casualties started to mount.

"The last thing the political

leadership needs before an election is casualties," Arian said. "What is happening is that people are more and more aware of the complexities of reaching goals based on military force. They see that political moves are equally important and, furthermore, that they are free."

In Patrick Seal's biography of Hafez Assad, he asks the Syrian president to name Israel's strategic strengths. Assad lists the IDF's military might, the strategic relationship with the US, Israel's qualitatively superior technology and its nuclear arsenal.

When asked what Israel's weakness was, Assad said: "The Israelis as individuals, and as a society as a whole, cannot stand pain for a long time. We can. That is our advantage."

THOMAS McInerney sees himself as a typical senior US military officer. 35 years in the Air Force, 24 of them overseas. But what he's seen of the Israeli military has turned him into its biggest booster.

"The professionalism I've seen in the IDF is the highest I've seen in any nation," says McInerney, who retired as lieutenant-general and No. 3 in the US Air Force in 1994. "They have political acumen. You're very lucky to have such military men."

Prime Minister and Defense Minister Shimon Peres hopes he'll meet many like McInerney in the Pentagon when he visits the US next week. Peres, who will be in Washington on Sunday and Tuesday, comes with a shopping list

of requests meant to catapult the US-Israel strategic relationship into a new hemisphere.

Peres is seeking a level of cooperation that will place Israel on the level of a strategic partner with the US in a variety of areas while ensuring that Washington will guarantee Israel's security in the long term. The goal was set in March in the wake of the Hamas bombings of Israeli buses and the anti-terrorism conference at Sharm e-Sheikh.

"Peres's idea is to capitalize on the warm feelings within the Clinton administration," a senior official says. "He sees an opportunity here to obtain a range of things for Israel that he might never get again."

One area of cooperation Peres hopes to achieve with the US is in anti-missile defense. The US currently is funding 40 percent of a

Looking beyond Clinton

PM Peres hopes to capitalize on White House support when he brings defense proposals to Washington, Steve Rodan reports

\$500 million program to develop the Arrow missile, which is aimed at intercepting and destroying incoming missiles.

Israeli and US officials have been working on a draft memorandum that would formalize cooperation in all areas of anti-missile defense. This would include the development of systems in the US and Israel that could work in tandem.

Such cooperation with Israel should comprise intelligence, early-warning and even responses to an enemy missile attack in the Middle East. This would prevent a repetition of the situation during the 1991 Gulf war when Washington rejected Israeli requests to attack Scud launchers in western Iraq out of concern that Israeli warplanes would clash with Allied fighters in the area.

"The worst nightmare in the Pentagon has been that we would shoot missiles [against an enemy] and Israelis would shoot missiles and we end up killing each other," a US defense analyst, who does not want to be identified, says. "So we have to decide electronically who goes after what with which weapons."

ISRAELI officials also want US investment in several currently small anti-missile defense programs. They include the Boost Phase Intercept program, in which lasers or missiles destroy incoming missiles in the early stage of their launch while they are still in enemy

territory. The current congressional budget for this program is up to \$150m, but Israeli defense sources say at least \$150m will be needed to make a BPI system operational.

"This is an area where we both benefit," says McInerney, who arrived in Israel as part of a delegation of an influential Washington-based group called Business Executives for National Security. "The kind of money we're talking about is not great."

A more important program for the Israelis is the Nautilus, a joint US-Israel program which was out of funds in September. The project aims at destroying short-range rockets, such as Katyushas, with a burst of laser energy.

When the Nautilus laser succeeded in destroying Katyushas in tests in February, the Israeli response was low-key. But since Operation Grapes of Wrath, in which some 600 Katyushas have been fired toward Israel, Defense

Ministry officials have become enthusiastic supporters of the program.

"In the last few weeks, the Nautilus has become a focus of efforts to push the Clinton administration to give money to make it a real system," a defense source says. "Politically, this has become our most important priority."

Israel defense officials say the goal is to obtain the Pentagon's agreement for a \$150m. Nautilus program that would complete two prototypes of the laser missile interception system by mid-1998. Currently, the US Army has already spent its \$3m. budgeted for Nautilus in fiscal 1996.

Israel diplomatic sources say they're confident the money can be obtained, despite what they acknowledge will be efforts to cut the US defense budget. They say Congress supports both BPI and Nautilus, the latter prompting enthusiasm. (Continued on Page 10)

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- 16.10 Prof. Eli Pollak - Chairman of Israel's Media Watch "The Struggle for Fair and Accurate Media".
- 16.30 Dr. Ilan Avissar - Tel-Aviv University "Israeli Media - Establishment, Politics, Ideology".
- 16.50 Mr. David Bar-Ilan - Editor of "Jerusalem Post" "Obligation of the Media in a Democratic Country".
- 17.10 Dr. Yuval Steinitz - Haifa University "Positive and Negative Effects of the Media on Democracy".
- 17.30 Prof. Moshe Sharon - The Hebrew University of Jerusalem "The Arab Media After The Oslo Agreements".
- 17.50 Discussion
- 18.10 Break, Refreshments
- 18.45 Session II: PSI ACTIVITIES TOWARDS THE ELECTIONS Prof. Israel Hanukoglu - Chairman of PSI Prof. Tsvi Ophir - Treasurer of PSI Annual Report.
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Failing the 'huddled masses' test

The status Russian Jews in the US enjoy as refugees is ripe for review, Marilyn Henry reports from New York

WITH a poem, the Statue of Liberty has welcomed tens of millions of immigrants to American shores. "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

But it has been a long time since the US so romantically embraced them. And when it comes to the Jews of the former Soviet Union, some in the US question whether they still pass the "huddled masses" test.

A recent survey of the Russian Jews in New York, and reports from some communal leaders in the former Soviet Union, seem to suggest that, history aside, their status as refugees is ripe for review.

Israel is officially staying out of the refugee debate. The scars are still fresh from Jerusalem's tug of war with American Jews over the appropriate destination of the Russians when the great exodus of Soviet Jewry began a few years ago.

Jews from the former Soviet Union are eligible to settle in the US under a special refugee provision that relaxes admission standards on the grounds that the Jews are endangered.

In general, applicants for refugee status must individually prove a "well-founded fear of persecution," based on race, religion, nationality or political opinion.

However, under the so-called Lautenberg Amendment, Jews and evangelical Christians in the former Soviet Union are treated as groups that must show only a "credible basis for concern" about persecution. Historic antisemitism provides that "credible basis."

The six-year-old amendment, named after Democratic Senator Frank Lautenberg, comes up for renewal in September. The attack on it is already under way.

"How in the world can we explain our posturing... about our rare and wonderful friendship and alliance with the present Russian government and the present independent states... while pretending in some cruel way that somehow people coming out of there are still refugees?" asked Republican Senator Alan Simpson of Wyoming, noting that there is no longer a Soviet Union.

"I would not suggest in any possible way that we are forgetting the lessons of the past, or the persecution of Jews in the former Soviet Union and throughout the world, or the lessons of the Holocaust," Simpson said in a recent speech in the Senate.

But, he added, these people should fall under the same refugee law that applies to everyone else.

Were it inclined to publicly chime in - which it is not - Israel would find itself on the same side. As a sovereign state that is dedicated to the ingathering, and that welcomes all Jews, Israel cannot abide the notion that there are still Jewish refugees.

And with Israel's national carrier, El Al, operating five flights a

week from Tel Aviv to Moscow, it is hard to make a compelling case about persecution when there is now such obvious unrestricted travel.

Last year, the US granted asylum to 110,000 refugees, including 22,000 Jews from the former Soviet Union. Some 350,000 Jews from the former Soviet Union have come to the US since 1965, most as refugees.

American Jewish organizations argue that the Russian Jews continue to face threats, including a potential "Zhirinovskiy-esque" victory of the extreme right wing in Russia's June presidential elections. In the recent congressional debates on immigration, they produced a parade of witnesses to tell legislators just that.

"State antisemitism was the first entity that was privatized, and it was taken up by the hands of hundreds of organizations," Alla Gerber, a Jewish member of the Russian Parliament from 1993 to 1995, told a congressional panel in February.

However, while the Russians are coming to the US under the refugee provision, they are not citing antisemitism as a major concern.

A survey of the Russian Jewish community in New York, released late last year, found that 41 percent said they emigrated because of personal safety, 10 percent cited family reunions, another 10 percent noted financial difficulties, while only 5 percent specifically mentioned antisemitism. (The rest

cited other reasons.) These are sentiments echoed by communal leaders in the former Soviet Union.

"Our experience for many years is showing that antisemitism has much less influence on emigration," said Josef Zissels, chairman of the Va'ad of Ukraine, which represents a community of more than 550,000 Jews.

Among the factors that families consider, economics has greater sway than persecution, he said in an interview during a visit to New York last month.

None suggest that antisemitism has ceased to be a threat. But Zissels said: "Do you want the stereotype or the reality? Right now, antisemitism is not a crucial problem in the Ukraine."

Some of the Va'ads' statements are viewed as suspect because the organizations are trying to build and sustain local institutions and thus have a powerful interest in getting along with their respective national governments.

But, even if the statements were to be taken at face value, there was virtually universal agreement that there are vast differences in the situations within or among the newly independent states. Gerber, for example, said optimistic reports about Moscow did not reflect conditions elsewhere in the Russian Federation.

"There is Moscow, and there is everything outside the boundary of Moscow," Gerber said. "And they are like two different worlds." That point was crucial in any

Let my people go no more?

OVER each of the last few years, the Jewish Agency has been getting some \$80 million a year from the US State Department to "resettle refugees" from the former Soviet Union.

This is no small sum, considering that American Jewish organizations send the agency roughly \$205 million a year for immigration and absorption.

The US grant was flagged last year in a routine audit of the State Department's refugee programs, conducted by the department's in-house inspector general.

The office of the inspector general "questioned the appropriateness of this assistance to these Jews since, in its view, most did not qualify as 'refugees,'" according to an official summary of the audit.

Congress, whose task it is to define a "refugee," thus far appears unmoved by the audit's concern, and the grant is expected to be renewed for next year. Congress - adopting the cry of "Let My People Go" - was fulfilling its obligation to help finance the exodus it helped create, observers said.

However, they also noted the paradox: Israel cringes at references to Soviet Jews as refugees in the US immigration laws, but is forced to swallow the designation to receive the grant.

The grant, which has been a source of funds of varying amounts for a quarter-century, is given to the United Israel Appeal, which then forwards it to the agency. M.H.



consideration of US law, rescue workers said. Although the one-time Soviet republics are independent, for the purposes of the US immigration policy, all states of the former Soviet Union remain lumped together.

"Of course there are differences between them, with problems in some places, but not in others. But how could you make a distinction for immigration?" one rescue worker asked. "Would you say that Jews from Kiev are not refugees, but Jews from Tashkent are?"

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CLINTON

(Continued from Page 8) siasm in the wake of its successful tests.

Peres will also seek to iron out policy differences with the US. One concerns guidelines for the use of commercial satellites. Both countries want to sell pictures from their imaging satellites but do not want to step on the security concerns of the other.

So Israel has objected to the use of US commercial satellites in photographing the country. A consortium of US companies and Saudi Arabia want to launch a satellite that could give Riyadh that capability.

And Pentagon officials don't want Israeli satellites to be used by customers in China or North Korea to photograph Japan, where the US maintains military installations. Israel Aircraft Industries and Core Software Technologies plan on launching an imaging satellite in May 1997.

DEFENSE Ministry Director-General David Ivry met earlier this year with CIA director John Deutch on setting rules for the use of commercial satellites. But so far the two sides have agreed on principles only.

A more sensitive area is that of alleged Israeli diversion of US technology. For the last two years, a group of US and Israeli experts has been examining Pentagon complaints that Israel illegally diverted US components and technology to third countries, particularly China.

Defense sources say the group has finished its work and has concluded that most of the US complaints were unfounded. The unresolved complaints involve alleged Israeli transfers to China.

Israeli officials say they want the Pentagon to announce that it has cleared Israel of all its allegations. "This is important to us," an official says, "because we've seen how many times some jerk in Washington decides to stick it to Israel and brings up the technology transfer charge."

But a US defense source suggests that the Pentagon will first want an Israeli commitment not to transfer even indigenous military technology to countries such as China and North Korea. "This has become a policy question," the source says.

The remaining issues on Peres's security list include US-Israeli cooperation on counterterrorism and agreement to begin talks on a defense pact. The latter is regarded as controversial, with its biggest supporter being the prime minister. Israeli officials say Peres's aim is to formalize an alliance with the US that will guarantee Israel's security long after the Clinton presidency. They say the prime minister is convinced the US president is prepared to be more generous than any of his predecessors in issuing the kind of commitments that will make Peres comfortable with agreeing to such steps as the return of the Golan Heights to Syria.

But many Israeli officials, including those from both the Defense and Foreign ministries, have expressed strong opposition to a formal defense alliance.

The officials, citing the US treaty with South Korea, say that such an alliance would severely limit Israel's freedom to defend itself. A group headed by Ivry has recommended that the US and Israel announce the formation of working groups to explore a defense pact. "We started working out what kind of alliance we would like," a senior official says. "It would be one that has all the good points of a US commitment without the bad elements. But time is short and now we just suggest a joint statement to pursue the matter."

US defense sources appear to be satisfied with that approach. In an era of decreased defense funding, they say, the US is not keen on expanding its military commitments abroad. As a result, the sources say, the Clinton administration will give enough to Peres so he can claim a breakthrough in US-Israel relations without receiving specific promises.

"At this stage, you're going to have an articulation of principles, which is always a nice thing for a small country to have," a US defense analyst says. "The question is how to operationalize this down the road. That will depend a lot on the election results in Israel."

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Little-known Italian cathedral a glory to behold

SITTING as it does in a town of 24,000, in central Italy midway between Rome and Florence, Orvieto's cathedral, or Duomo, hasn't got the global profile of St. Peter's in Rome, the Duomo in Florence, or St. Mark's in Venice.

If the Catholic Church ran a marketing survey of North American visitors to Italy, the grandly Gothic Orvieto church might even run behind the cathedrals of Siena and Milan. And if the subject is the continent's most beautiful churches, there will always be arguments for Chartres or Notre Dame in France, or maybe even Antonio Gaudi's Sagrada Família in Barcelona, if you're in the company of modernists.

But if you arrive in Orvieto in early afternoon on a blue-sky day, make your way on foot up the Via Nebbia, then turn the old stone corner with all the tourist signs and cast your gaze skyward, there's a good chance that you'll forget about other churches for a while. There stands the Duomo, in considerable glory.

The first time I came face to face with the cathedral of Orvieto, I was startled and humbled, but not quite overcome; it was shortly before noon, and the facade was in the shade. But by the time I had wandered back to the Piazza del Duomo about an hour later, the sun was in optimum position, and the front of the church was ablaze. It didn't seem real.

Art historian Jacob Burckhardt called the Duomo "the greatest and richest polychrome monument in the world." Pope Leo XIII suggested that on Judgment Day, the Duomo's beauty would carry it right up to Heaven. And soon, the place may make an even bigger impression on modern-day visitors. Some time this year workers are due to complete restoration that has kept the church's spectacular Signorelli interior frescoes behind scaffolding for more than a year.

Orvieto sits on a tilted table top, its high end about 300 meters

above the green valley below. Approaching by train or car, visitors first pass through the modern, humely part of town, known as Orvieto Scalo, at the base of the table. From there, a traveler can either drive up the hill to fight for a rare parking space, park and take a bus, or ride the funicular railway (less than \$1 for an adult round trip) to Piazza Caden, from which buses make the brief run to the Piazza del Duomo.

Uptown, Via Maitani and Via del Duomo lead past souvenir shops and restaurants to the piazza in front of the Duomo. The shops offer Orvieto's other most popular products: white wine produced on neighboring estates; hand-detailed pottery, often distinguished by green coloring; lace, and ironwork. Beneath those streets and shops, the hilltop is riddled with ancient tunnels and tombs — a cause for worry over the town's physical stability and a reminder of the settlement's early human history.

Orvieto, in the westernmost region of Umbria as it gives way to Tuscany, was an Etruscan town from about the seventh century to the third century BCE, when Romans forced the Etruscans out. In later centuries, Orvieto fell under control of the Vatican and became a frequent papal retreat. The church's cornerstone was laid in 1290, on the highest ground for miles around at a site formerly occupied by another church and, before that, an Etruscan temple.

The triptych-like facade of the church, about 50 meters high, is dominated by four pillars, each elaborately sculpted with scenes from the Bible. The doorways are enormous, surrounded by sculpted bas-relief details, with stained-glass windows and glistening mosaics above. Inside and out, the church's walls are horizontally striped, the stonework alternating between white travertine and gray basalt.

By some accounts, the Duomo project began as a celebration of a reputed miracle in the nearby town of Bolsena: A Bavarian

priest, on a pilgrimage to grapple with his doubts about the doctrine of transubstantiation (the point in the Catholic Mass at which wine and wafers are said to be transformed into Jesus' blood and body), saw Jesus' blood materialize, in the shape of Jesus' face, on a white linen altar cloth.

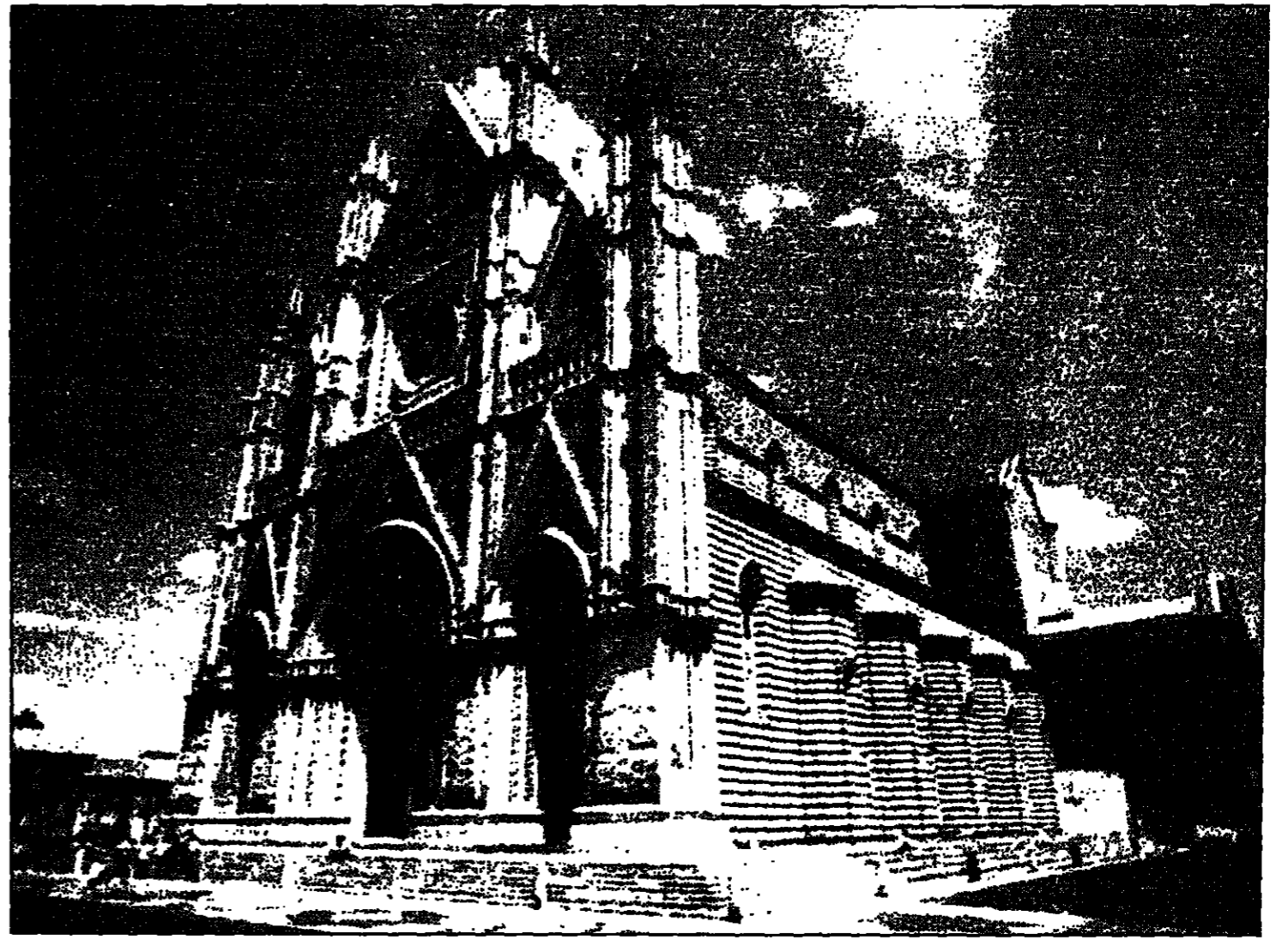
Some historians have also theorized, however, that 1290 was an opportune time for the Vatican to raise an intimidating structure to discourage the developing independence of towns in that area of the countryside.

Either way, it was an immense project, and one that the church and town clung to even after the murderous arrival of the Black Death in 1348. The Duomo wasn't completed until 1580, and by that time, according to one historian's count, it had become the joint product of 33 architects, 152 sculptors, 68 painters and 90 mosaicists.

The bronze doors are even more recent, the product of work from 1964-1970.

The original architect is unknown, but great credit is usually heaped upon Lorenzo Maitani of Siena, who took over in 1310 and spent about 30 years guiding construction — including the detail work on the four pillars that dominate the church facade — as ongoing redaction transformed the plan from Romanesque to Gothic.

In the Duomo's chapel lies the church's greatest interior treasure and, unfortunately, one recently obscured from public view. There, restorers are working on a cycle of frescoes by Luca Signorelli that is widely considered to be one of the crowning artistic achievements of the Italian Renaissance. The cycle includes a Last Judgment that was painted from



Eternal creation: Orvieto's cathedral, partly shrouded for restoration. (Christopher Reynolds/Los Angeles Times)

1499-1504 and is said to have heavily influenced the execution of another judgment scene about 40 years later — Michelangelo's, in the Sistine Chapel.

Signorelli painted himself as a bystander at the Sermon of the Antichrist, and elsewhere is said to have included the face of his unfaithful girlfriend on the body of a prostitute writhing in hell. Other frescoes are the work of Fra Angelico and various others, mostly from the 15th century.

There is more to Orvieto than the church, of course. The

Church of San Giovenale looks down onto orchards from its rock base. On the edge of town lie Etruscan tombs. I missed the market held in the Piazza del Popolo on Thursdays and Saturdays, but the narrow, stony streets around it are full of medieval character.

Near the Piazza Caden, on the way up the hill into the highest and oldest quarter of town, lies the Pozzo di San Patricio, a 16th-century well that is about 70 meters deep and wide enough to accommodate two spiral staircases.

Pressed for time, I decided I could live without seeing that or paying the fee of about \$4.

Instead, I wandered around the pleasant (and free) public gardens on the site of an ancient fortress, still rimmed by ancient walls and surrounded by a commanding view of the checkerboard farmland below. It was near here that erosion and landslides threatened the hilltop town's stability in the late 1970s. Italian leaders in the last 15 years have waged a costly campaign to shore up the hilltop.

The town also has several muse-

ums, including the Museo Archeologico Nazionale, the Museo dell'Opera del Duomo and the Museo Claudio Faina — but many of their galleries have been closed for years for reorganization or upgrading, and those that are open are not the most arresting in Italy, or even in Umbria.

It would be nice to spend a night in town and make time for lingering in such places, but the truth is, most travelers in Rome could make Orvieto a day trip without much guilt.

(Los Angeles Times)



In Qumran, some visitors come to believe they are biblical prophets. (R. Nowitz)

Qumran: A place for fantasies

QUMRAN is more than just an archaeological site — it is a place where thousands of people express and sometimes act out their religious beliefs and fantasies.

That is the view of Ya'acov Dahan, director of the site at which the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. Only recently, Dahan relates, two excited French tourists rushed up to say they had just discovered another scroll in the hills to the west of the site.

Recalling that only a few months ago an ostracod (a fragment containing an inscription) had been found at the site, Dahan rushed after them along the path up the hillside. What the French tourists had found, he says with a smile, was the top of the bulb of a fall flower, whose dried layers could have been mistaken for a rolled manuscript.

SEE IT HERE
HAIM SHAPIRO

that lived at Qumran, he says an archeologist who participated in the original excavations under the direction of Fr. Roland de Vaux told him no sign of wine had been found and many of those buried here had long hair.

Meanwhile, even those without religious fantasies can enjoy a visit. Although the ruins can be confusing, even the amateur can identify the many ritual baths there and wonder at technology which kept them filled.

For good walkers and climbers who are ready for a

hike of a few hours, there is a path from the site which leads to the plateau to the west. According to Dahan, this was the same path used by the residents of Qumran to the site at which they recited their daily prayers.

Following recent rains, those who do the climb should not only be rewarded with a magnificent view of the Dead Sea, but also with a wealth of wild flowers. However, there is also a fine view, if a little less spectacular, from the excavation site itself.

Qumran is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is NIS 10 for adults, NIS 5 for children.

Others have far more profound fantasies. On more than one occasion, visitors have come up to him to tell him they are biblical prophets, he says.

Dahan himself has his own theories. He recalls a passage in the Talmud describing a group of people who lived near the Dead Sea and who pledged to be life-long Nazirites, following the biblical guidelines not to drink wine, cut their hair or be defiled by a corpse.

Convinced that this is the group

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The right age can earn a hotel discount

THE older you are, the cheaper you stay," is the motto of the international Radisson chain, which is offering substantial discounts to those over 65 who stay at Radisson SAS hotels in Europe.

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A 65-year-old is to get a 65 percent discount, someone who is 100 is to get a free room, and anyone that is 120 is to receive a rebate equal to 20 percent of his room's price. The chain has also teamed up with 19 airlines to give frequent flyer points and benefits.

FOR THOSE who don't have to worry about their diets, culinary tours of Burgundy, with six days of wine and dining in some of France's best restaurants, are being organized by City Tours of Tel Aviv. The price of the tour is \$2,300, with discounts available for holders of Gold Mastercards.

ARKIA is offering those 29 and under a four-night vacation in Eilat for NIS 462, including surfare from Tel Aviv and accommodation in a room for four. The offer is valid until July 1.

TRAVEL TIPS
HAIM SHAPIRO

AMERICAN Airlines has announced that its VUSA price for the coming year is to start at \$299 for three flights, going up to \$329 during July and August. The prices are valid for flights to Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean.

ALTHOUGH some passengers may never experience it, there are airlines which try to ease the boarding process by calling a limited number of rows at a time to board. Now Lufthansa is going one step further by introducing a system whereby it first asks passengers holding window seats to board the plane, then gradually fills the plane towards the center. The airline says the system eases congestion in the aisles, even for passengers with bulky bags and coats.

The German national airline also has a special round-trip fare to Munich of \$475 for passengers leaving Tel Aviv on the company's Saturday flight.

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Friday May 17
EIN KEREM
Led by renowned tour guide and Ein Kerem resident Walter Zanger. The tranquility and exciting peacefulness of the village remind many of old Provence. Ein Kerem, which is the birthplace of John the Baptist, has many churches. We will visit the famous Church of the Visitation, St. John's Church, and — the most peaceful place in Jerusalem — the Convent of the Sisters of Zion. The tour, which starts from the Spring of Miriam at 9:15 a.m., lasts until 1:00 p.m. NIS65.

Sunday June 9
ANCIENT SYNAGOGUES OF GALILEE
After Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 CE, Jewish leaders fled to Eretz Yehuda and, after the Bar Kochba rebellion, to Galilee, where Jewish life began to flourish again. The tour leaves from Jerusalem, and picks up in Tel Aviv. Then we visit the Arbel, Tiberias, Kfar Nahum, and Peki'in. The tour guide is Yoni Shapiro, and the cost, which includes entrance to all sites, a full lunch, and transportation in air-conditioned coaches, is NIS170.

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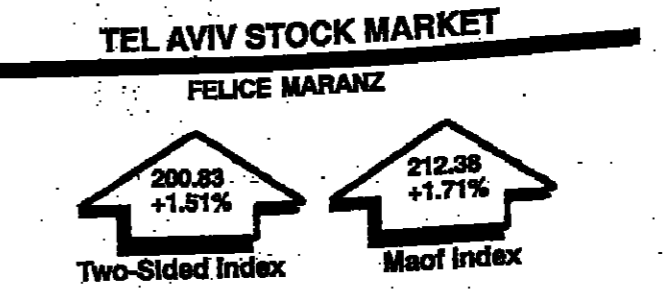
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London metal futures
Last Change
Gold AMM ... 390.38 +0.75

Months in parentheses denote contract exp. date
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TASE rises amid optimism on interest rates



STOCKS on the TASE surged in the week amid optimism that the Bank of Israel's decision Sunday to raise the rate at which it lends to banks will be the last rate increase in the near future.

London shares close slightly higher

LONDON (Reuters) - UK shares ended mixed to slightly higher as investors shrugged off Wednesday's surprise decision by the UK government to block two key takeover bids in the electricity sector.

Dow rises 13 points

NEW YORK (AP) - Technology stocks resumed their rally Thursday after some early profit taking, keeping the Nasdaq Stock Market's record-setting rise on track.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Currency cross-rates table with columns for MARK, STERLING, YEN, SF, and FF

Solid Integr And va for mo... (Large vertical advertisement on the right edge)



People frantically fill out Lotto forms for yesterday's NIS 20 million jackpot. The winning numbers were: 4, 7, 12, 18, 21, 45 and the additional number was 46. (Brian Hender)

Israel releases 6 more Jordanian prisoners

SIX Jordanian prisoners released from Israeli jails crossed the Allenby Bridge into Jordan yesterday for an emotional reunion with their families.

It was the third batch of Jordanian prisoners to be released, lowering to 18 the number who remain in Israeli prisons since they were arrested over the past six years.

Israel released seven Jordanians in February and one on Monday. All eight were convicted of infiltrating into Israel or plotting attacks against it.

Jordanian Information Minister Marwan Mouasher has said Jordan seeks the release of all the prisoners as a gesture of goodwill in view of the peace treaty signed between the countries in October 1994.

But Mouasher admitted that negotiations to free some of the convicts were "laborious" because they were convicted of carrying out attacks in which Israelis were killed. He declined to discuss details.

The six men freed yesterday were escorted by Jordan's ambassador to Israel, Omar Rifai, and were handed over to Jordanian border authorities at the Allenby Bridge.

"I am very happy to be free and I feel I was born again," said Raed Abu Hayjaa, 26, after he hugged and kissed family members and friends in an emotional reunion.

"But I am pained because I left behind some Jordanian brothers whom I hope will be released soon," said Abu Hayjaa.

Others released yesterday included: Ahmed Nayef Suleiman, Youssef Alaeddine, Ahmed Hassan Shawareh, Bassam Khalil Abu-Awwad and Ghassan Ali al-Jawabrah. (AP)

Prisons Service offers shelter to Nahariya families

RAINE MARCUS

THE Prisons Service is currently hosting some 30 families from Nahariya as a result of the hostilities in the North. The 20 adults and 40 children arrived at the Prisons Service's Nir College, between Kfar Sava and Kochav Yair, on the eve of Independence Day.

They were given psychological guidance as well as group and individual therapy to help them relax after their experiences. The project was initiated by Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal and Prisons Service Commissioner Arye Bibi. The families will be treated to a visit to the Kfar Sava country club, the monkey park at Ben Shemen, and trips to Modi'in and other sites, including the Safari Park in Ramat Gan.

The Prisons Service also sent food parcels to the families prior to their arrival. They are expected to stay until Sunday. A Prisons Service spokesman said that both guards and prisoners at the nearby low security Eyal prison are doing everything possible to make the traumatized visitors feel comfortable.

Prisons Service employee files complaint against Meshulam followers

RAINE MARCUS

PRISONS Service Deputy Commissioner Yitzhak Nir has lodged a formal complaint with police against two of Uzi Meshulam's followers after receiving a poison-pen letter. Meshulam and his followers are currently incarcerated in Ayalon Ramle Prison's hospital wing because the non-smoking Leshem wing for the religious is being renovated.

The complaint was filed after two of the followers cursed Nir. Recently, prisoner Noam Ekbas filed a request to marry the daughter of a fellow prisoner, Yitzhak Lahiani, within the prison walls. Both prisoners are Meshulam followers.

Prisons Service Commissioner Arye Bibi approved the request, according to prison regulations regarding weddings. Bibi authorized 100 guests from outside to attend, but the two prisoners were not satisfied, and insisted that 1,000 guests would be invited.

When authorities decided that 1,000 guests was too many for a prison wedding, Ekbas and Lahiani sent a poison-pen letter to Nir, which included insults and curses against the officer and his superior. The two prisoners also complained that their request had been verbally rejected and they had not been informed in writing.

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Court rules: Dead man's sperm must be preserved

HAIFA District Court issued an interim injunction on Tuesday requiring the Health Ministry and the sperm bank next to Haifa's Rambam Hospital to continue to preserve the sperm of a 25-year-old man who died of cancer two months ago, until a decision is reached on whether or not his sperm can be used to impregnate a friend of his.

Judge Dan Bin issued the injunction in response to a petition by the man's friend and parents. In his will, the man left the sperm to the friend, who had cared for him throughout his illness. The couple also made a videotape in which they said that they wanted her to become pregnant using the sperm he had donated before becoming ill.

In their plea, the parents requested she be allowed to use his sperm to become pregnant, and thus "give him an heir and a survivor."

Bin postponed the decision on the legality of this exceptional request to June. (Itim)

Mekorot to drill water wells for Hebron

DAVID RUDGE

MEKOROT has won a tender issued by the Hebron Municipality to drill two new wells aimed at boosting water supplies to residents of the city.

Work has already started on the \$1.5 million project being carried out by Mekorot's heavy mechanical division. The project is being financed by German investors.

A Jordanian company and another Israeli concern also submitted bids for the scheme, but the municipality chose Mekorot to carry out the project.

David Zadok, chief engineer of the heavy mechanical division, said the new wells would be drilled near Herodion and would draw water from the eastern sector of the coastal aquifer, also known as the Yarkon Taninim underground reservoir.

He said the work would be conducted round-the-clock and is expected to be completed within six months. Together, the two new wells will be able to supply an additional 400 cubic meters of water an hour to Hebron.

Existing water supplies to the city are insufficient to meet the needs of the population. Zadok said the new project is being carried out in accordance with the decisions of the joint Israeli-Palestinian water committee.

Two die in road accidents

TWO people were killed and four injured in two traffic accidents yesterday.

A 50-year-old woman was killed and four others injured when a car turning left into Majd el-Kurum was hit by a truck on the Acre-Karmiel road yesterday afternoon.

Police said the car did not yield the right of way to the truck, which crashed into its right side, killing one woman and seriously

injuring two passengers. The truck driver and a passenger suffered light injuries.

In Moshav Azrikam, Shalom Gafasi, 66, was hit and killed by a truck driving in reverse on a side road. Gafasi, who had been walking on the side of the road, was declared dead at the scene.

Police arrested the driver and suspended his license. He is suspected of negligence. (Itim)

Israeli serving 70-year sentence in US released

DAVID RUDGE

HERUT Lapid, founder of the kibbutz prisoner rehabilitation program, revealed yesterday that he had secured the release into his custody of an Israeli who is serving a 70-year sentence in the US.

Lapid said the Yavne man, 44, a former merchant seaman, had served 11 years of his sentence for arson and kidnapping.

He said that 14 years ago, when his ship was in Houston, Texas, the man had met and married an American woman.

"After a while their marriage broke up. It was at this point that he kidnapped her and set fire to her flower shop. He was caught, tried, and sentenced to 10 years for arson and 60 years for kidnapping," said Lapid.

Lapid went to the US and met with officials there and outlined to them details of the rehabilitation program, in which prisoners work and live on kibbutzim under his custody and supervision and learn a new life style.

Lapid said the US officials wanted a guarantee that the man, if he were to be released "early," would not return to the US. "I went to Tel Aviv District Court, which issued an order banning him from going to the US until 2055. The parole board then agreed to his release and he returned to Israel on Wednesday," said Lapid.

Robbers murder elderly man

Boris Yudelevich, 75, of Haifa, was murdered and his wife injured in a robbery attempt on Wednesday night. Two masked robbers broke into their apartment, tied up the couple, and beat them. The robbers then stole an estimated \$8,000 worth of cash and jewelry, after tearing the apartment apart in their search for valuables. (Itim)

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WEATHER
Map of Israel showing weather forecasts for various cities including Haifa, Tiberias, Akko, Samaria, Jerusalem, Beerseba, Dead Sea, and Eilat.

AROUND THE WORLD table with columns for city, temperature, and weather conditions.

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